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POL 23-9 LIBYA R/30

Department of State

TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL 881

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ACTION AF 18

INFO OCT 01, CIAE 00, DODE 00, JPM 04, H 02, INR 07, L 03, NSAE 00, NSC 10,
P 03, RSC 01, PRS 01, SS 20, USIA 12, AID 28, PC 04, OPR 02, RSR 01,
SSO 00, ACDA 16, CU 04, E 15, SCS 04, SCA 01, COM 08 OF 10 STEW A/CDC/MR

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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REVIEWED BY ____ DATE 12 JUL 1982
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE ____
TS AUTH. ____ REASON(S) ____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS ____

P 051742Z SEP 69
FM AMEMBASSY BENGHAZI
TO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 223
AMEMBASSY BAIDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BENGHAZI 681

SUBJECT: BENGHAZI SITREP - 18:00 SEPTEMBER 5.

1. ALTHOUGH THERE WERE MORE TRAPPINGS OF NORMALCY TODAY, BENGHAZI IS STILL PERVADED BY NERVOUSNESS, STEMMING FROM A FEW EVENTS AND RUMOURS. THE GRAND HOTEL WAS COMMANDERED THIS MORNING BY MILITARY AND AREA SEALED OFF TO PEDESTRIANS AND MOTOR TRAFFIC. SOME SAY HOTEL IS BEING USED FOR INCARCERATION OF VIP'S UNDER ARREST; OTHERS SAY IT IS OFFICER'S BILLETS. RUMOUR CIRCULATIING SINCE MORNING, THAT BEDOUIN TRIBESMEN ARE ON THEIR WAY TO RECAPTURE BENGHAZI IN THE NAME OF KING IDRIS, MAY EXPLAIN MILITARY NERVOUSNESS. THEY HAVE NOW SET UP A BARBED WIRE BARRIER IN FRONT OF THEIR HQ.

2. MILITARY AUTHORITIES APPEAR FIRMLY IN CONTROL BUT ARE OBVIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT WHEREABOUTS AND ACTIVITIES OF THOSE IMPORTANT LIBYANS WHO HAVE NOT YET ANNOUNCED THEIR SUPPORT OF THE NEW REGIME. SEVERAL YOUNG OFFICERS HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT FACT THAT U.S. AND UK HAVE NOT YET RECOGNIZED NEW REGIME.

3. PARADES AND DOMONSTRATIONS TODAY WHEN CURFEW LIFTED (10:00 TO 17:00 HOURS) WERE LESS NOISY THAN WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY. A BRIEF INCIDENT OCCURRED WHEN TWO GROUPS OF YOUNG LIBYANS STONED AN APARTMENT BUILDING AND FORCEFULLY REMOVED A BUSINESS SIGN FROM ANOTHER. START UNIVERSITY'S ACADEMIC YEAR, SCHEDULED FOR 7 SEPTEMBER HAS BEEN INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.

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4. BENGHAZI TELEVISION PROGRAMMING LAST NIGHT CARRIED FILMS OF PARADES, PATRIOTIC SONGS, AND THE READING OF TELEGRAMS OF SUPPORT RECEIVED BY THE RCC. BENGHAZI NEWSPAPERS, AL HAKIKA AND THE LIBYAN TIMES APPEARED IN BENGHAZI TODAY FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 31 AUGUST. MORE SHOPS WERE OPEN TODAY AND NO SERIOUS

SHORTAGES HAVE APPEARED.
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